GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:855
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
ST STATUS TO BHOI AND MEENA CASTES
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The population of Meena caste in the year 1957;

(b) whether Bhoi and Meena castes are still in the Scheduled Tribes category;

(c) the reasons for according S.T. status to Meena caste as Bhoi Meena and Nishad Mallah belonged to 'Vimukta Jati' and Meena did not belong to Vimukta Jati; and

(d) the reasons for not according the status of S.T. to these castes?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a): Scheduled Tribes are notified under Art. 342 (1) of the Constitution. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific. The Meena community was not notified as a Scheduled Tribe till the year 1976. It was notified as a Scheduled Tribe in the State of Rajasthan only in the year 1976, vide the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976. The population of the Meena Community for 1957 is not available. The population of the community in the State was 2799,422 as per the 1991 census.

(b): Bhoi is notified as one of the synonyms of the Khasi Scheduled Tribe in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Meena is a notified Scheduled Tribe in the State of Rajasthan

(c) & (d): There is no connection between a community being declared a 'Vimukta Jati' (Denotified Tribe) and/or being notified as a Scheduled Tribe. A community is notified as a Scheduled Tribe on the basis of following criteria:-

i) Indications of primitive traits,

ii) Distinctive culture,

iii) Geographical isolation,

iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and

v) Backwardness.